



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
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*Media Advisory***

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## Media Advisory:

### Fort Polk to hold a Purple Heart Ceremony

FORT POLK, LA. —A Purple Heart Ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at Fort Polk's Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital. Media must meet at the Public Affairs Office, building 401, no later than 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Soldiers being decorated are:

- Sergeant First Class Marcellus Williams of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR): on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004, SFC Williams was setting up a checkpoint in Najaf, Iraq when his position was attacked with Rocket Propelled Grenade and Small Arms fire. SFC Williams suffered shrapnel wounds to his face and arms.
- SGT Gerald Conklin of Regimental Headquarters & Headquarters Troop (RHHT), 2nd ACR: on June 3rd, 2004, SGT Conklin was on duty in Iraq when his position was attacked by mortar fire. SGT Conklin sustained shrapnel wounds to his neck, shoulders, hand, forearm and face.
- Specialist Bradley Cuatt of HHT, 3/2nd ACR: on May 13th, 2004 SPC Cuatt was on a foot patrol in Najaf, Iraq, his patrol came under attack by enemy forces using Rocket Propelled Grenades and Small Arms. SPC Cuatt received wounds to both his legs.
- SPC Steven Hildabridle of HHT, 3/2nd ACR: on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, SPC Hildabridle was on a foot patrol in Najaf, Iraq when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. SPC Hildabridle received wounds to the scapula area.
- Private First Class Abby N. Lozinski of the 204th Military Police Company, 519th Military Police Battalion: on September 13th, 2003 PFC Lozinski was on roving MP vehicle patrol during combat operation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when an Improvised Explosive Device struck her vehicle. PFC Lozinski suffered wounds to her eyes and hearing loss in both ears.

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## Purple heart 2/2/2

The Purple Heart is the first U.S. military decoration instituted by General George Washington in 1782 and awarded for bravery in action. The records show that only three men received it during the American Revolutionary War, Sgts. Elijah Churchill, William Brown, and Daniel Bissell Jr. on May 3rd, 1783. Two of these coveted badges still exist.

The original medal, sewn onto the coat, was simply a purple heart-shaped piece of cloth edged with silver braid. Although this was the medal of honor of the Revolution, it seems to have been forgotten for about 150 years. The 200th anniversary of Washington's birth marked the revival of the award on February 22nd, 1932.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded:

- (1) In any action against an enemy of the United States.
- (2) In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged.
- (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- (4) As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces.
- (5) As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.
- (6) After 28 March 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of the Army, or jointly by the Secretaries of the separate armed services concerned if persons from more than one service are wounded in the attack.
- (7) After 28 March 1973, as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force.

While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather, he or she is entitled to it upon meeting the specified criteria for its award.

What Washington wrote in his orderly book on August 7, 1782 still stands today: "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one."

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Media wishing to cover the ceremony should contact Major Ron Elliott at (337) 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at (337) 531-4630. Media must meet at the Public Affairs Office building 401 no later than 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday.